

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 SSO-00

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O 242020Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8850

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 0476

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES TD (HODGES, CHINA DENISE)

SUBJ: W/W DEATH OF AMCIT CHINA DENISE HODGES

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 457; STATE 43242

1. DECEASED'S REMAINS ARE WITH CLARK & BATTOO FUNERAL HOME. THAT ARRANGEMENT MADE BY DR. HILL, AFTER CONSIDERING COMPARATIVE COSTS AND SERVICES OF SEVERAL SUCH HOMES. IT APPEARS THAT PATRICK ALLEN FUNERALHOME IS CORRESPONDENT OF MORGAN PARK FUNERAL HOME IN CHICAGO, AND THAT LATTER DESIGNATED PATRICK ALLEN. DR. HILL HAS NOW COORDINATED BETWEEN TWO TRINIDAD FUNERALHOMES, AND CLARK & BATTOO PROCEEDING.

2. PATHOLOGIST'S OFFICE RELEASED BODY TO CLARK & BATTOO, INTACT EXCEPT FOR BLOOD AND CONTENTS OF STOMACH WHICH WENT TO GOVERNMENT LABORATORY FOR TESTING. EMBALMING ACCOMPLISHED FEBRUARY 23, BEFORE RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTION NOT TO EMBALM. VITAL ORGANS ARE OUTSIDE BODY CAVITY, NOT EFFECTED BY EMBALMING, AND PATHOLOGIST CONFIRMS SECOND AUTOPSY CAN BE PERFORMED. IF DESIRED, REPORTS OF TESTS OF BLOOD AND CONTENTS OF STOMACH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM LABORATORY HERE.

3. PATHOLOGIST'S INITIAL REPORT OF DEATH ONLY TENTATIVE, PENDING RECEIPT OF RESULTS OF ALL TESTS. INITIAL REPORT CITED CAUSE OF DEATH AS QUOTE ASPHYXIA
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POISONING UNQUOTE. ASPHYXIA INDICATES EXCESS OF

CARBON DIOXIDE AND DEFICIENCY OF OXYGEN IN BLOOD, AND FAILURE OF LUNGS TO CONTINUE FUNCTIONING. POISONING INDICATES THAT IT CAUSED BY INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN ELEMENT SUCH AS CARBON MONOXIDE, DRUGS, WATER, OR FAILURE OF AIR TO REACH LUNGS BECAUSE OF STRANGULATION, OBSTRUCTION IN WINDPIPE, ETC. NO CONCLUSION COULD BE DRAWN FROM THIS TENTATIVE REPORT WHETHER DEATH ACCIDENTAL, SELF-INFLICTED, OR BY OUTSIDE AGENTS. NOT APPARENT HERE HOW FAMILY RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT AUTOPSY SHOWED EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY, BUT LOCAL NEWSPAPER CITING CAUSE OF DEATH AS QUOTE ASPHYXIA BY POISONING UNQUOTE MIGHT LEAD READER TO BELIEVE THAT FOUL PLAY INVOLVED.

PATHOLOGIST'S ASSUMPTION IS THAT INQUEST WILL BE HELD IN THIS CASE. HE HOPES TO HAVE FINAL RESULTS OF HIS TESTS BY END OF THIS WEEK, BUT IN EVENT INQUEST IS CALLED BEFORE HE HAS FINAL RESULTS AND DEFINITE CAUSE OF DEATH ESTABLISHED, HE WILL REQUEST POSTPONEMENT OF INQUEST.

4. ESTIMATED COST FOR RETURN OF REMAINS AS FOLLOWS:
Q. EMBALMING AND PROCESSING OF BODY US \$900.00;
B. SHIPMENT OF BODY TO CHICAGO US \$315.00. CLARK BATTOO WILL INFORM MORGAN PARK FUNERAL HOME WHEN AND HOW SHIPMENT BEING MADE.

5. MRS. HODGES BEING INFORMED VIA DIRECT RELAY CABLE OF INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPHS ONE THROUGH FOUR ABOVE.
FAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTO00476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0462
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760219/aaaaaqes.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PORT OF SPAIN 457, 76 STATE 43242
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W DEATH OF AMCIT CHINA DENISE HODGES
TAGS: CDES, TD, (HODGES, CHINA DENISE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006